

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

By LCDR Liz Beaty, DDSP

It was not exactly a vacation, but I was away from home this summer.

I deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as a member of the U.S. Central Command Deployment and Distribution Operations Center (CENTCOM DDOC) Sustainment Cell.

I left Harrisburg, PA, on May 9th for Fort Bliss, TX, to process through the Continental United States Replacement Center (CRC) where I received my required immunizations, my military issued gear, weapons qualifications, and force protection briefings. I arrived at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, on May 15th.

At this point, you might recall that I'm a Navy officer. I am usually somewhere in the middle of an ocean and remain on a ship throughout a deployment. This deployment was a very different experience for me. I wore the desert camouflage uniforms. I lived in an eight-person tent. I learned Army 101. I encountered 126 degree weather and sand storms. Although I was out of my comfort zone, the overall experience was phenomenal.

The CENTCOM DDOC consists of about 65 people coming from all walks of life—civil service, regular and reserve military, officers and enlisted. The men and women I served with came from all over the globe—Maine to California, Georgia to Washington State, Japan to Germany, and everywhere in between. Deployments ranged from a mere 60 days to a full year depending on the parent command of the individual. As a DLA Distribution Specialist, I helped with the theater distribution issues and

concerns including the movement of food, construction materials, and repair parts. I worked with troops throughout the entire CENTCOM area of responsibility, but specifically Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, and Kuwait. I even had an opportunity to travel to Afghanistan and Qatar.

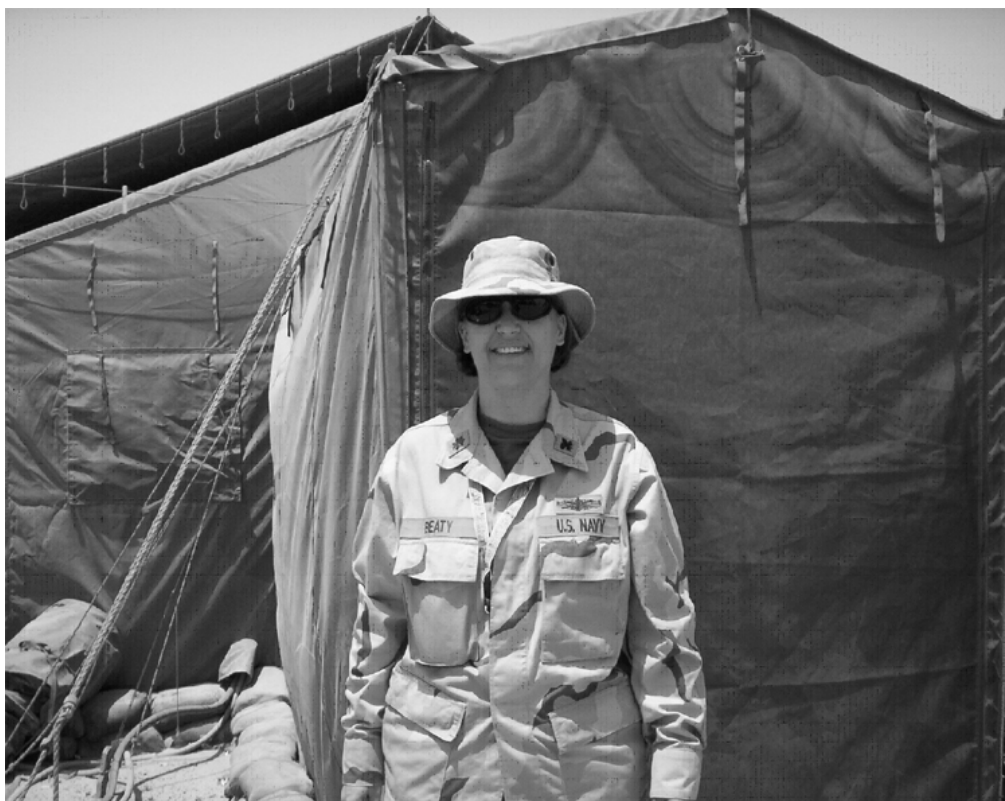
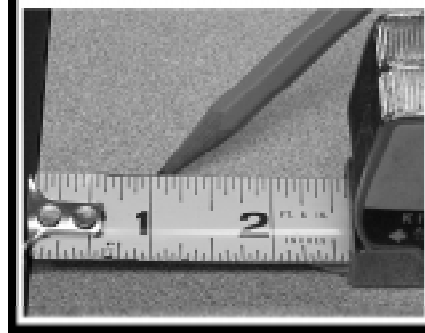
I returned to DDSP in mid-September. I now understand the challenges associated with moving materiel throughout the water ports and airfields in Iraq. I also understand the challenges of moving materiel through Afghanistan, a country that has no existing infrastructure or highways. I now understand what an important role the personnel at DDSP play in getting materials to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. I personally saw pure air pallets and sea van containers at the Theater Distribution Center at Camp Doha, Kuwait.

I am thankful that I had an opportunity to deploy to Kuwait. I am also thankful to be home again at DDSP.

Inventory Accuracy

Begins with You

- ✓ Be Exact
- ✓ Be Precise
- ✓ Be Accurate



LCDR Beaty in front of the tent she called home at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.